



Hands on Habitat

State of Hawai'i

What Are the Problems?

- **Marine debris** Derelict fishing gear damages coral reefs and entangles endangered Hawaiian monk seals, humpback whales, and sea turtles.
- **Invasive species** Highly destructive alien algae drastically changes coral reef communities.
- **Land-based pollution** Sediment runoff and pollutant loads impact the entire watershed – from upland streams to coral reefs.
- **Coastal wetlands** Hawai'i has seen a 31% decrease in coastal plain wetland areas.

Background

Hawaii's main islands are diverse, encompassing everything from coral reefs to mountain streams. Coral reefs alone contribute more than \$360 million per year to the Hawaiian economy from marine-related tourism and commercial and recreational fishing. Protecting and restoring these fragile habitats is important to the environment and the islands' economy.

What We Do

- Remove derelict fishing gear
- Control alien algae species
- Establish native algae (limu) within coral reef ecosystems
- Control upland erosion to reduce sediment loading into bays and estuaries
- Re-establish coastal marshes and freshwater catchment wetlands
- Remove invasive plants from riparian and riverine habitats
- Educate communities about the value of healthy habitat and restoration

How We Do It

NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) achieves science-based habitat restoration through community



involvement and stewardship. We build powerful partnerships among Hawaii's public, private, and non-profit organizations. Our projects continually demonstrate the effectiveness and benefits of locally based habitat conservation throughout the Hawaiian islands.

Our Accomplishments

Since 1999, we have:

- Awarded roughly \$470,000 and leveraged more than \$1.1 million
- Funded 15 projects
- Completed 7 projects
- Restored more than 400 acres of habitat
- Engaged roughly 1,100 volunteers for 6,700 service hours through partner-led activities

Our Partners

NOAA works with 48 local, private and public organizations in Hawai'i, including The Nature Conservancy, Hanalei Watershed Hui, Hawai'i Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, and University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program.

Our Focus

Protect and restore diverse and fragile habitats that are threatened throughout the Hawaiian islands by human activity and invasive species

CONTACT

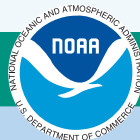
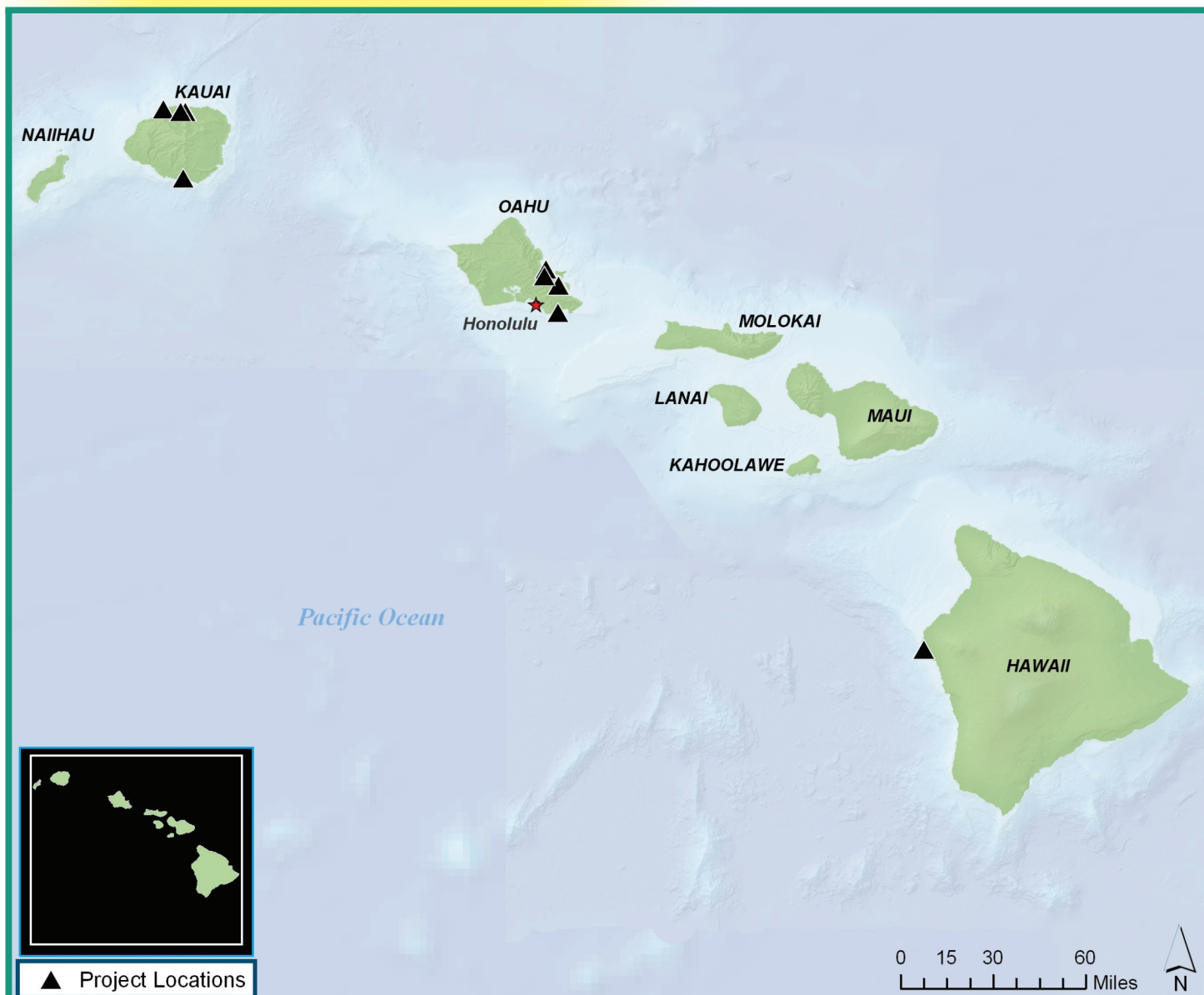
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NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP)

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SELECT COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROJECTS:

**Hamakua Marsh
Restoration, Kailua**

**Hanalei Estuarine
& Stream Habitat
Restoration, Hanalei**

**Hawaii Coral Reef and
Native Algae Restoration,
O'ahu**

**Heeia State Park Coastal
and Riparian Restoration,
Kaneohe**

**Kihapai Marsh
Restoration, Kailua**

**Lawai Stream
Restoration, Lawai**

**Limahuli Stream
Restoration, Haena**